Kono Kamo Shirenai

Volume 05 Chapter 01

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少女系列
TONG LI
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赤石路代
譯者／楊雅玲

永遠守護妳

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赤石路代
少コミCheese!フラワーコミックス

永遠守護妹 5

- Kosumo Koganehara - a young 17-year-old girl who has received the heart of priestess Himiko via transplant.
- Hitsugi - a young man whose mission is to watch over the 99th Himiko priestess.

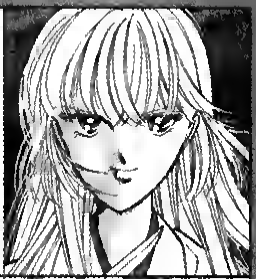
Summary

Kosumo Koganehara is a 17-year-old girl who underwent a heart transplant in New York. When she returns to Japan, a young man introduces himself to her as Hitsugi. He informes her that she received the heart of the high priestess Himiko and that his mission is to protect her. Himiko is the priestess with the greatest power in Japan and her life has been interlocked with the politics of this country for generations. Kosumo, who reveiced this woman's heart, now has strange powers. But the real Himiko, resurrected partly because of the intensity of her feelings for Hitsugi, uses all her resources to eliminate Kosumo, thus arousing Hitsugi's distrust and leaving him wondering if the one who came back to life is really the same Himiko.

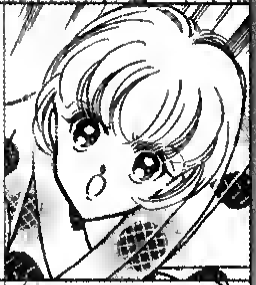
To make sure of it, Kosumo goes to Kyoto in search for the Okitsu Kagami, the "Mirror of the Deep" *, which is supposed to reveal the true face of those reflected in it, but she is ambushed by Himiko. The mirror falls and shatters. Himiko charges again a bit later at the place where Kosumo and her sister, Mirai, are living. At that moment, Mirai is brandishing a fragment of the broken mirror that she picked up at Himiko.

*Translator's Note: The ten sacred treasures treasures consisted of the Okitsukagami ("Mirror of the Deep"), the Hetsukagami ("Mirror of the Shore"), the Yatsukatsurugi ("Sword Eight Hands Long"), the Ikutama ("Jewel of Life"), the Makaru kaeshi no tama ("Jewel of Resuscitation"), the Tarutama ("Jewel of Plenty"), the Chikaeshi no tama ("Jewel of Turning Back on the Road"), the Orochi no hire ("Snake[repelling] Scarf"), the Hachi no hire ("Bee[repelling] Scarf"), and the Kusagusa no mono no hire ("Scarf [to ward off] Various Things").

- Himiko: The 99th Himiko priestess. Victim of a car accident, her heart remained viable and was transplanted into Kosumo, but she was resuscitated.

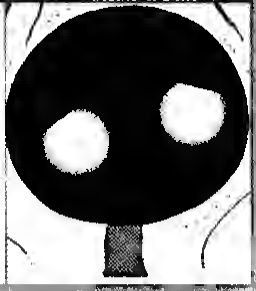


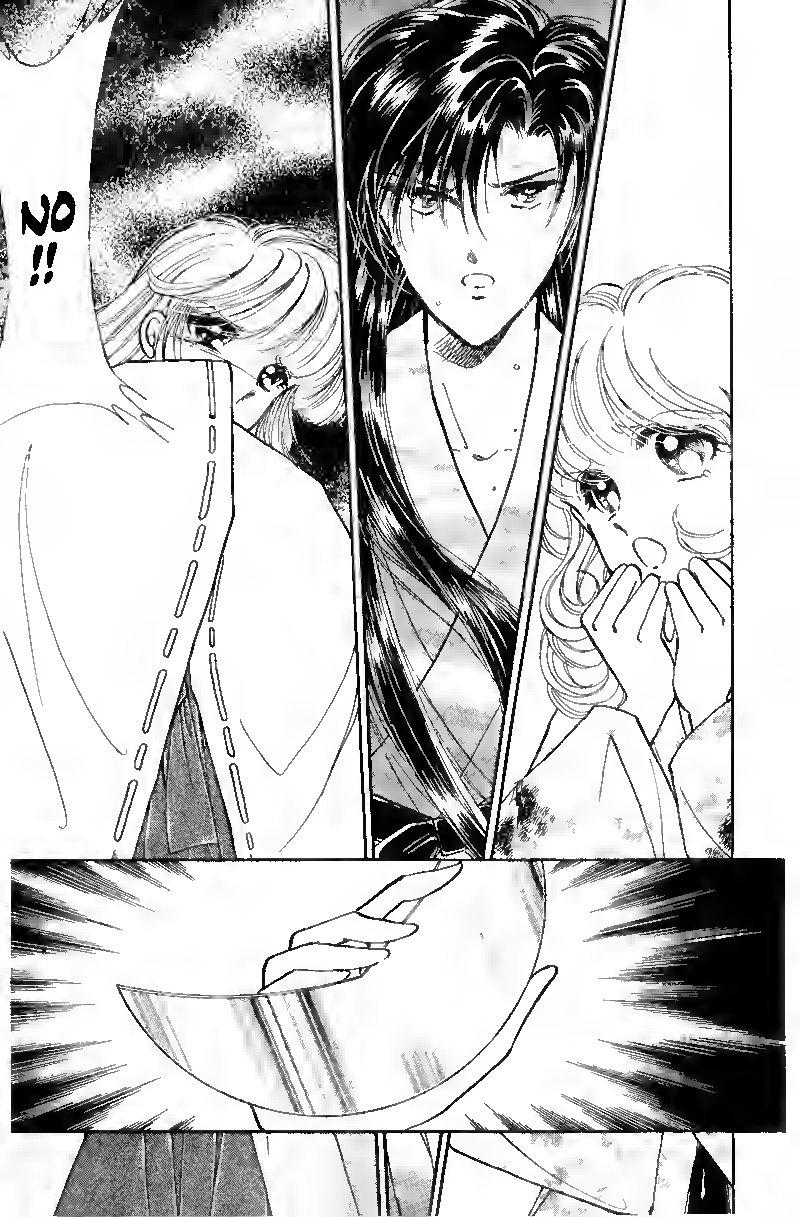
- Mirai Koganehera. Kosumo's little sister. She worries very much about her sister's health. She's a young, energetic and gentle girl.



- Mizuki Kurahashi Priest of a temple. He met Kosumo as a child and is still in love with her.

- Inugami: One of those Kosumo freed. He decided to stay with her.




NO
!!

HITSUGI, YOU SAW ME...?

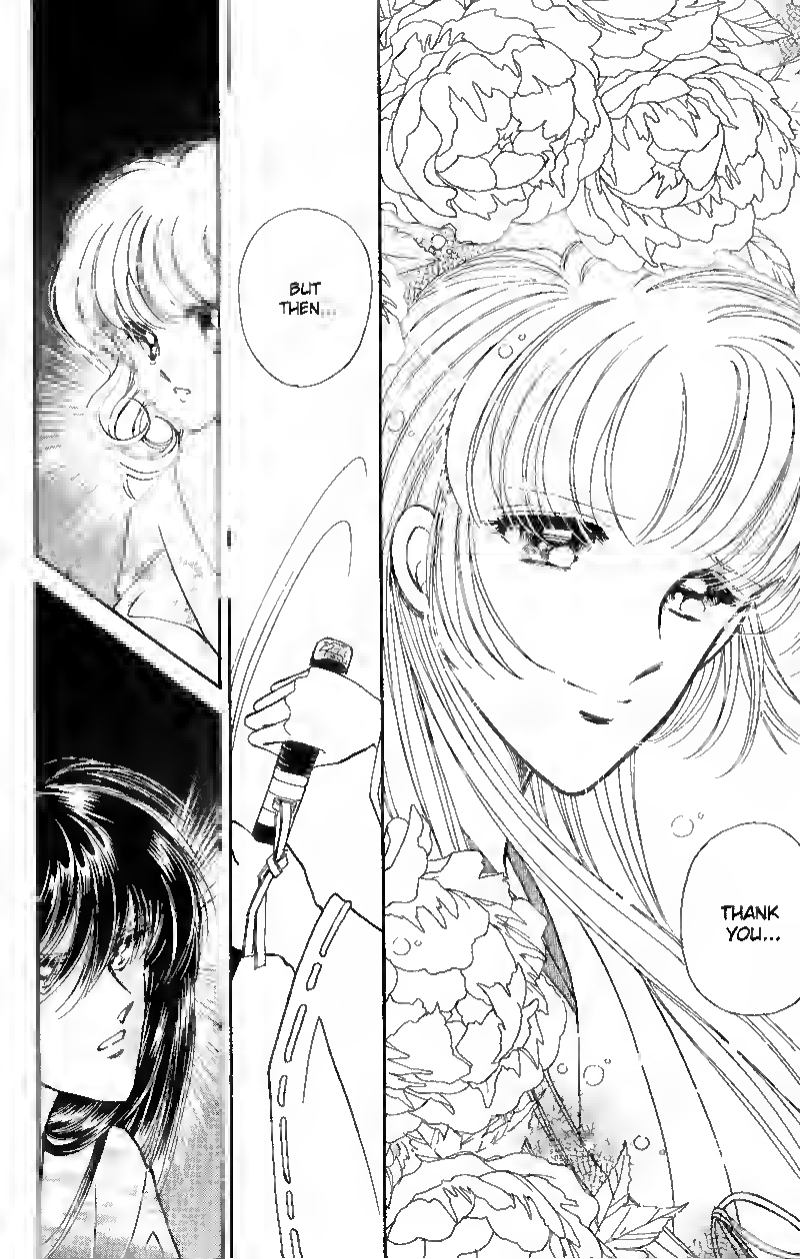
SO? WHAT WAS REFLECTED?
IT WAS A MONSTER, RIGHT? I WAS SURE OF IT!
NO!
YOU GOT IT WRONG, MIRA! A MONSTER... IT WAS...
IT WAS THE PERSON FROM WHOM I RECEIVED THIS HEART....

HIMIKO-SAMA...
HITSUGI...
YOU ARE STILL ABLE TO CALL ME THAT?
I...
I'M NOT MYSELF ANYMORE...
FROM THE TIP OF MY FINGERS TO THE DEEPEST PART OF MY BODY, I'M ONLY ROTTEN FLESH...
HIMIKO-SAMA!

THE TARU TAMA? BUT... ISN'T IT THE MAKARUGAESHI NO TAMA WHICH RESCUCITATES THE DEAD?
YOU RE-SURRECTED ME WITH THE TARU TAMA, KNOWN FOR REPLACING WHAT LACKS...
THAT ONE WAS THE TARU TAMA.
IT GAVE ME WHAT I NO LONGER HAD...
BUT I ALREADY WAS PART OF THE LAND OF TOKOYO, THE LAND YOU CAN'T FREE YOUR-SELF FROM.
BUT SOME-HOW...
I'M STILL HERE.

I APO-
LOGIZE,
HIMIKO-
SAMA!
HITSUGI...
IF I
HADN'T
LEFT YOU
ALONE ON
THAT NIGHT...
SUCH
A THING
WOULD
NEVER HAVE
OCCURED..

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME, BUT YOU WOULD HAVE DIED AT THE SAME TIME AS ME!
HITSUGI.
NO, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT!
I WOULD HAVE GONE WITH YOU TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD!


BUT THEN...
THANK YOU...

YOU MUST NOT DIE!
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY.
BUT NOT YOU...
I HAVE TO DIE...
BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT PROTECTING AN ORDINARY PRIESTESS..
HIMIKO!! NOOOO!

HIMI-KO-SAMA!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
AAH!
YOU CAN'T MEAN TO DIE IN FRONT OF ME A SECOND TIME?!
FORGIVE ME, HITSUGI...

HIMIKO-
SAMA!!

HIMIKOOO!!

INTO THE HEART OF THE FLAMES OR INTO THE DEEPEST OF WATERS, WOULD YOU PLUNGE TO SAVE ME?
WOULD YOU PLUNGE, HITSUGI..
...FOR ETERNITY.
I'LL WATCH OVER YOU...
Hit-sugi! Watch out!!

LET ME GO!
SHE JUMPED!
SHE'S GONE! SHE LEFT ME AGAIN!
SHE'S NOT DEAD! HIMIKO IS NOT DEAD!!
DON'T FOLLOW HER!!
HITSUGI!

OH..
YOU ARE BLEEDING...
KOSUMO

SHE'S HERE...
YOU MUST NOT DIE...
YOU REMEMBER HER WORDS, DON'T YOU?

KOSUMO.
KOSUMO...

YOU ARE RIGHT.
I MUST NOT DIE.
BECAUSE YOU ARE HERE.
FOR YOU. .

THAT'S ALL NO SNAKE OR GUTS LEFT. EVERYTHING IS OVER...
HITSUGI REALLY LOVED HER, RIGHT? TO THE POINT WHERE HE WANTED TO DIE WITH HER...
YES.
DOES IT HURT?
NO. IT'S ALL RIGHT

OH! IT'S STARTING AGAIN...
THIS STRANGE WARMTH IN MY CHEST...
HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEART BY PROTECTING ME...
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT... BECAUSE HITSUGI IS THERE.
LET'S GO ON TOGETHER, HIMIKO.
HE LOVED HER...
AND SHE LOVED HIM...
BUT DID THEY KNOW HOW MUCH?

YOU HAD NO CHOICE, MIRA!...
POOR HIMIKO. I MADE HER SUFFER SO MUCH...
YOU KNOW, I WAS DES-PERATE...
ME? I'M FINE COMPARED TO THE OTHER TWO.
I PITY YOU...
HIMIKO, HITSUGI...
I DIDN'T WANT HITSUGI TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO SEE HER.
HMM...
AND EVEN YOU, KOSUMO

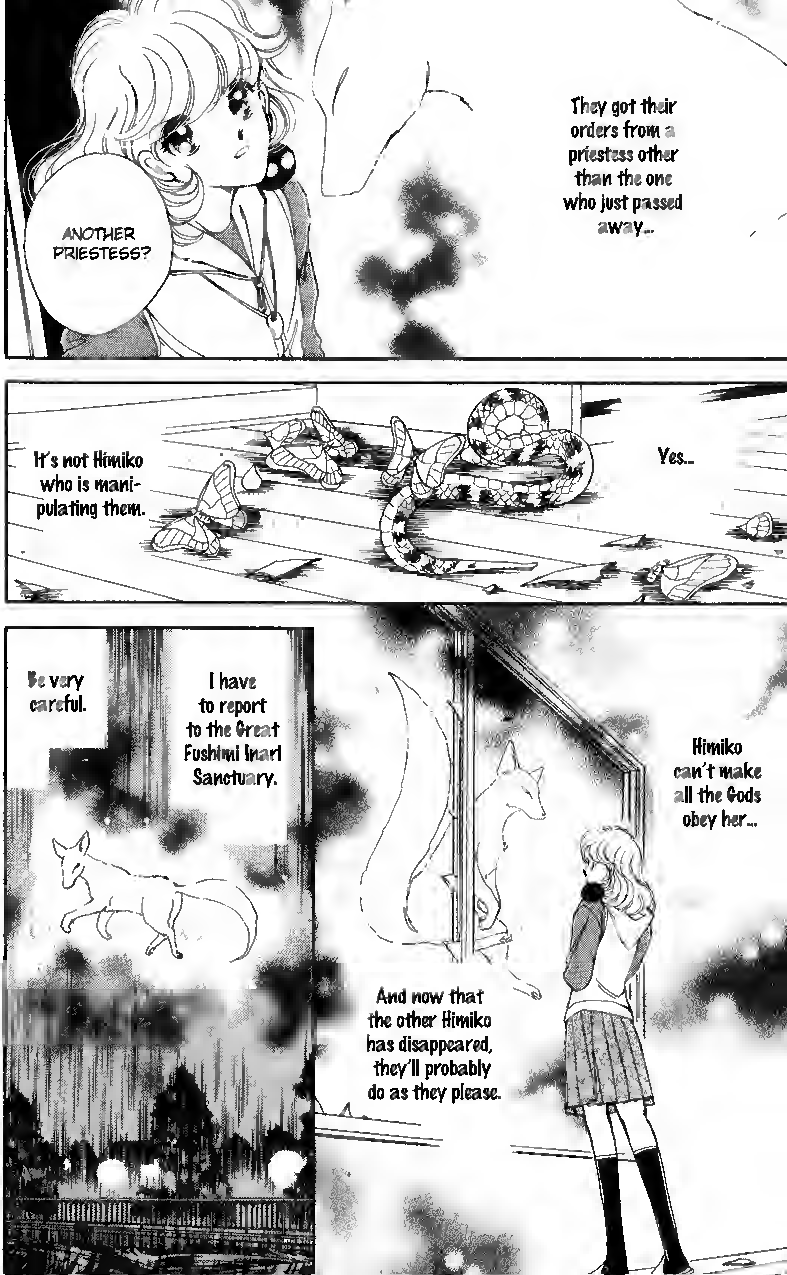
YOU LOOK SAD..
EVEN YOU, KOSHIMO
HIMIKO MANIPULATED SERPENTS...
BUT WHO MANIPULATED THE BUTTERFLIES WHICH CAME TO MY AID...?
AH, THERE HE IS.
キー
THERE. IT'S OVER ARE YOU HURT?
INUGAMI? INUGAMI WHERE ARE YOU?

OH! KITSUNE?!
DID YOU SEE EVERY-THING?
Himiko is dead.
MY... INVOCA-TION?
I followed you
I also heard your invocation earlier.
You made the Wind Gods leave.

AH, THAT...
SHI-MAKI!
KARA-KAZE!
ANA-JI!
TAMA-KAZE!
I INVOKE THE GODS
I...HOW WOULD I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO SUCH A THING...?
AH...
Maybe not you, but Himiko's heart knows them all...
WHEN I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE NAMES OF THE WIND GODS...

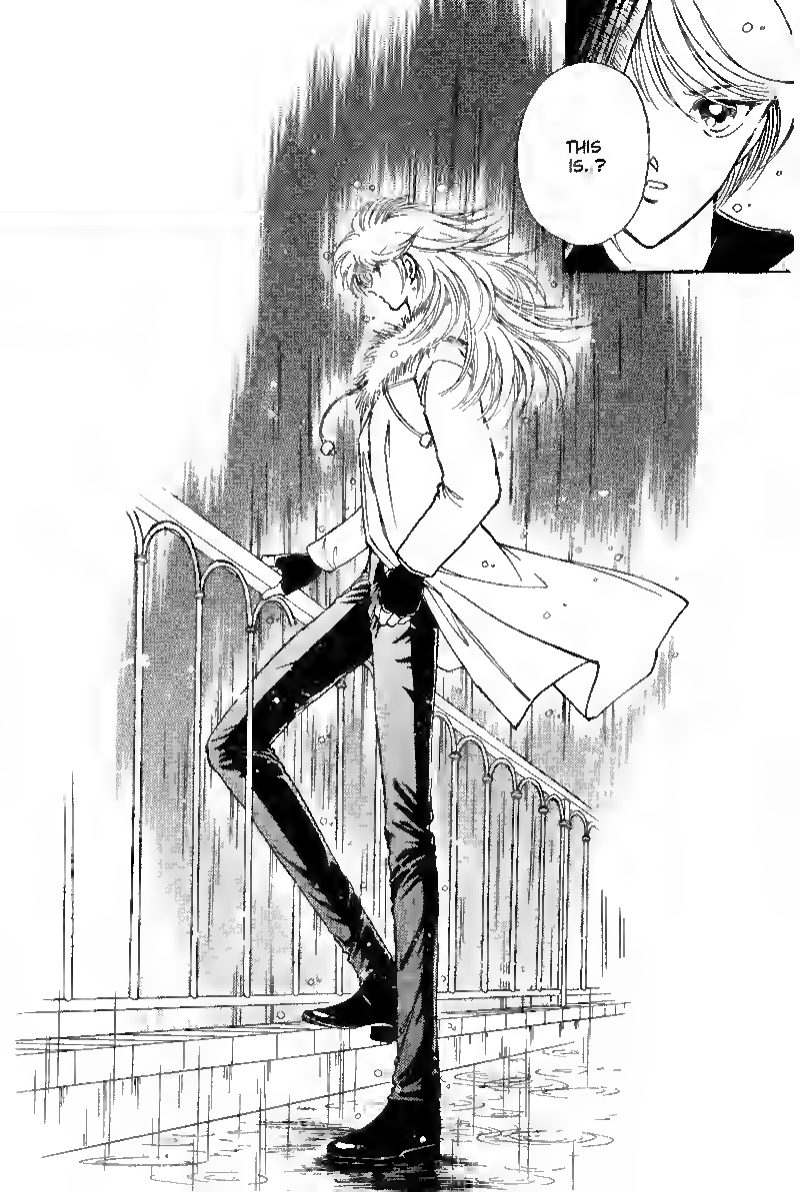
HERE, IN KYOTO, THE KAMIS ARE A LEGION.
THEY CAN BE FOUND EVERY-WHERE
MANY OF THEM ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH HUMANS WHO MADE THIS TERRITORY A GATHERING PLACE FOR THE GODS
.....
They are on your side.
The other Himiko must have been cognizant of it
HIMIKO... SHE DESTROYED THE DARKNESS WITHIN HER HEART..
FOR THAT REASON SHE..

Don't drop your guard!
Himiko, it's not over yet.
HIMIKO... YOU REALLY WERE AN EXTRAORDINARY PERSON...
WHAT?
I'm a messenger of Inari, and I answer to the invocation of the priestess Himiko...
But it's a different matter concerning the snakes and butterflies from earlier on...
SO STRONG IN SPITE OF YOUR SADNESS


ANOTHER PRIESTESS?
They got their orders from a priestess other than the one who just passed away...
It's not Himiko who is manipulating them.
Yes...
Be very careful.
I have to report to the Great Fushimi Inari Sanctuary.
Himiko can't make all the Gods obey her...
And now that the other Himiko has disappeared, they'll probably do as they please.

Take care of yourself, Himiko!
THANK YOU, KITSUNE*...
*TRANSLATION NOTE: KITSUNE MEANS FOX IN JAPANESE
Raaaah!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, BLAST IT!

THIS GIRL IS ALIVE ALTHOUGH SHE CARRIES WITHIN HER HIMIKO-SAMA'S HEART!
WHY?! WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE HIMIKO-SAMA WHO DIED?!
AH...
SOMEONE IS COMING, HIDE!
RYUKA, YOU ARE TALKING TOO LOUDLY! PEOPLE ARE GONNA OVER-HEAR WHAT YOU SAY.
SOD IT...


THIS IS..?

ポウ

YOU SEEM TALENTED, LITTLE FOX...
THEY WANT TO HINDER ME FROM ASSING?
INFERIOR MAGAMI?
What?
Who are you? A shinto priest?
I HONOUR OOKAMI, THE WOLF GOD, ALSO CALLED MAGAMI.
WANT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF?
MY NAME IS TENRO KAGEMASA AND I'M INDEED A PRIEST.

THOSE BETRAYING HIMIKO-SAMA SHALL ONLY MEET DEATH!
Don't you have a scrap of common sense?
BE QUIET!
The girl who died was not the high priestess Himiko.
THERE IS ONLY ONE HIMIKO-SAMA!

Move. I have to go to Fushimi!

What...
DID YOU REALLY THINK I WAS GOING TO DISTURB OOKAMI-SAMA
FOR A VULGAR FOX LIKE YOU!

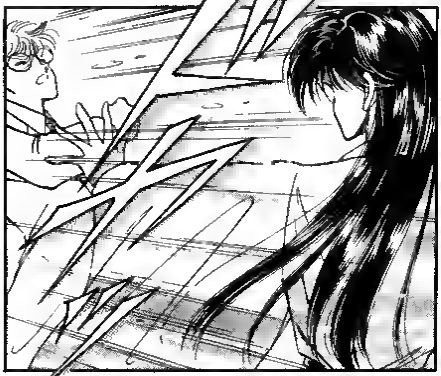
JUST GO TO HELL!

Only the 100th Himiko can stop him.
Don't you know that our real enemy is Tokoyo no Kami..?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE 100TH HIMIKO-SAMA?
TOKOYO NO KAMI?
I'M NOT READY....

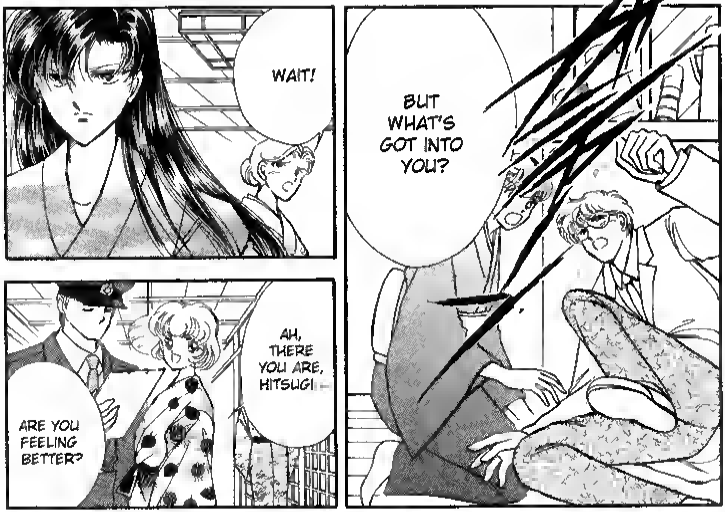
HE'S SENDING HIS INUGAMIS OUT AGAIN.
HIMIKO-SAMA NEEDS ONLY TO BE ABSENT AND HE TAKES TOO MANY LIBERTIES.
SHALL WE TAKE HIM WITH US, RYUKA?
YOU MUST BE JOKING, RIGHT? I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH A GUY WHO MANIPULATES THE INUGAMIS...
WE'LL SEE HOW HE'S GOING TO MANAGE.
LET'S GO!

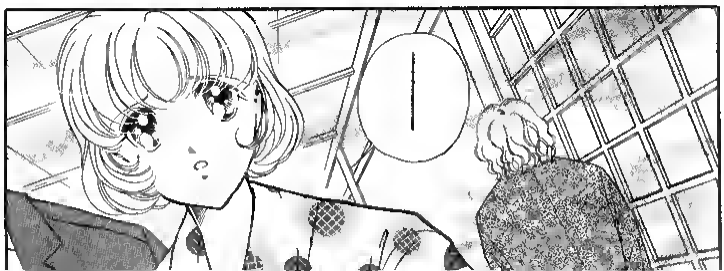
YOU LET HER DIE TWICE IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES, WHILE YOU WERE THE ONE IN WHOM SHE PLACED HER GREATEST TRUST
I'M NOT ABOUT TO FORGIVE YOU...
HITSUGI!!

KYAAH!
WAAH!
WHAT WAS IT? THE WIND?
ANOTHER SQUALL?



YOU SHOULDN'T STAND UP RIGHT AWAY...
IT'S NOT...

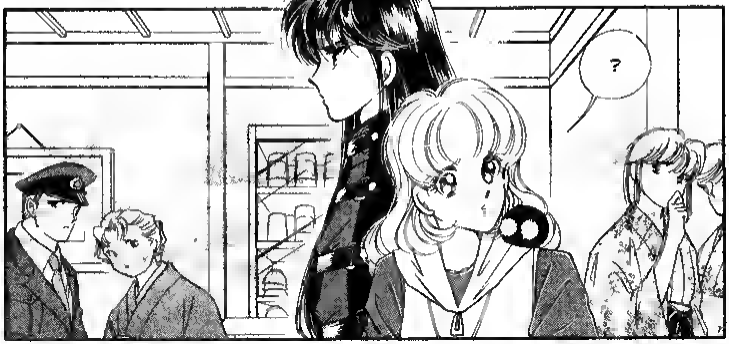

WAIT!
BUT WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU?
AH, THERE YOU ARE, HITSUGI
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?



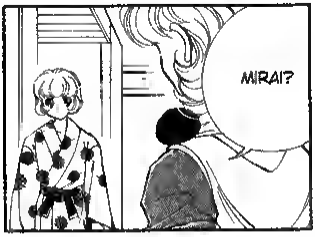
HIT...
HITSUGI
...?!
HIMIKO-
SAMA.
AH,
HITSUGI....

?
HIT...
DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO LIE DOWN?

LET'S LEAVE
O... OKAY..
WHAT'S GOING ON, INUGAMI?
HE'S TREM-BLING.
HITSUGI...


?

WHAT?
KOSUMO... HITSUGI HAS A STRANGE AIR ABOUT HIM..


MIRAI?

HIT.. HITSUGI?
HE BRUTALLY PUSHED THIS MAN BACK..
AND INJURED HIM.

WHAT IS IT?
HITSUGI?!
HE HAS A STRANGE AIR ABOUT HIM.

THERE IS BLACKNESS WITHIN EACH HUMAN HEART... IN THIS DARKNESS THE INUGAMI IS COVERING..
HE GRADUALLY RAISES THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE HEART AND CAUSES THE RUIN OF ITS HOST.
HITSUGI. THAT'S WHAT IS AWAITING YOU TOO..

YOU ARE GOING TO DIE, CONSUMED BY THE DARKNESS OF YOUR HEART.
IT'LL BE MY VENGEANCE!
BECAUSE YOU LET HIMIKO-SAMA DIE,
AND SHE'LL NEVER COME BACK.

At the Kyô no Miya
What?!
Himiko-sama is dead?!
THE SNAKE PRIESTESS RYUKA HIRAGI JUST CALLED ON US.
WHAT HAPPENED ?
SHE THREW HERSELF INTO A STREAM AND WAS SWEPT AWAY BY THE RIVER.
WE LOST OUR HIGH PRIESTESS AGAIN...?
ONCE WASN'T ENOUGH. IT HAD TO OCCUR A SECOND TIME...

Kanazawa, the Yuki no Miya, "The snow temple"
This is a rather gloomy forerunning sign.
Hisho
It is a sign of a coming cataclysmic power
TOKOYO NO KAMI?
A SNOW-STORM..
THIS YEAR IT ARRIVED CONTRARY TO ALL EXPECTATIONS

No. He is still in his cocoon. He continues stretching his threads around the world but he is not ready to go out yet.
A RUMOUR IS RUNNING RIFE THAT A PRIESTESS AND KAMIS WERE RESCUED BY TOKOYO NO KAMI.
Mmh. it is true.
Perhaps that is where this omen comes from.
MIKO-SAMA!
WE WERE NOTIFIED THAT THE 99TH HIMIKO-SAMA HAS PASSED AWAY!
THE 99TH? ARE YOU SURE?
YES SHE KILLED HERSELF CLOSE BY THE KYO NO MIYA
What is with that story?
But I thought there was still hope

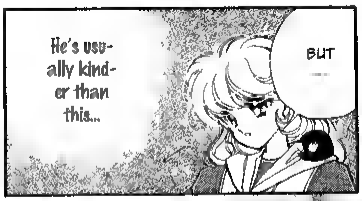
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU ARE THE 97TH HIMIKO AND YOU ARE STILL HERE!
Life is about to leave my body
Mmh
Miko-sama!
Hisho take this mirror
YES
Look
She is the new Himiko

WHAT IS THIS POWER?
The cataclysmic power is drawing near her
Hisho
protect this young girl
A destroyer
IMPOSSIBLE. I HAVE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO THE PROTECTION OF...
the 97th high priestess!
A DESTROYER ?!

Miko-sama!
I just told you my life is about to come to an end
Go... Your mission with me is over
And if this girl ever was to fall under the influence of Tokoyo no kami
YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL HER!
Miko-sama! Miko-sama!

Himiko-sama!

A bone fracture...?!
YOU SURELY HAVE A BONE FRACTURE...
彩雲荘
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST APOLOGIZE!
HITSUGI! WHY DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!
HE TRIED TO STOP ME FROM SEEING YOU
HE WAS BOTHERING ME. THAT'S ALL... HE SHOULDN'T HAVE STOOD IN MY WAY.
WHAT DID I DO WRONG? IT WAS TO PROTECT YOU...

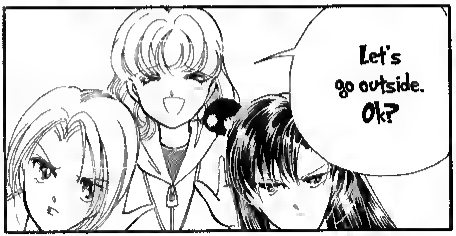

He's usually kinder than this...
BUT...

Kosumo!

TO PROTECT ME...?

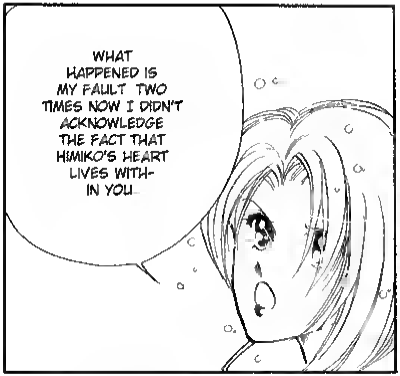
HITSUGI!
You're alive?!
YOU WERE... HERE?

HIYOSHI?
I HEARD THAT HIMIKO-SAMA DIED HERE?!

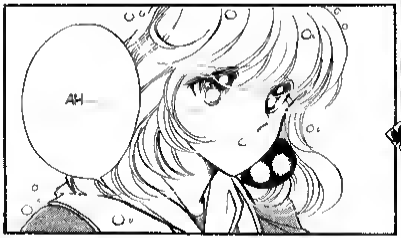

Let's go outside. Ok?

YOU LET HER DIE IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES AGAIN?!
WHAT HAPPENED ?
DON'T LAY THE BLAME ON HIM!
HE WAS UNDER THE EFFECT OF A SERPENT'S POISON
BUT HE WANTED TO THROW HIMSELF INTO THE RIVER IN ORDER TO SAVE HER...
SO, I BEG YOU, DON'T BLAME HIM FOR ANY-THING!
MORE SO, SINCE WHAT WAS REFLECTED IN THIS MIRROR WAS ALREADY NO LONGER HIMIKO...

I told Hiyoshi the story about the search for the mirror
And the use of the Taru Tama Himiko told me about
IT'S THE OKITSU KAGAMI...?
THE MIRROR SAID TO REFLECT PEOPLE'S TRUE NATURE...?
OOH... BUT SO IT'S NOT THE MAKARIGAESHI NO TAMA WHO REVIVED HER..?
I THOUGHT IT WAS LOST...
EVERYTHING IS MY FAULT...
NO, HIYOSHI NOBODY IS AT FAULT.


WHAT HAPPENED IS MY FAULT TWO TIMES NOW I DIDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT HIMIKO'S HEART LIVES WITH-IN YOU.

HI... HIYOSHI ...
I'M CONFUSED, KOSUMO...


AH—

What?!
BUT FROM NOW ON YOU HAVE TO LET US TAKE HITSUGI'S ROLE AS YOUR PROTEC-TOR AWAY FROM HIM.

WE CAN'T TRUST IN SOMEONE WHO LET THE HIGH PRIEST-ESS DIE NOT ONLY ONCE BUT TWICE.
BUT, HIYOSHI
What?!

I'M THE ONE ENTRUSTED WITH HER PROTECTION!
Nobody...
Hitsugi!

...IS
GOING
TO STOP
ME!

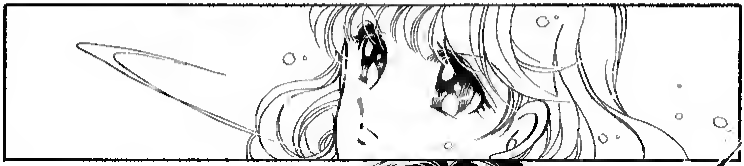
HAVE YOU GONE MAD, HITSUGI?!
Hi Hitsugi ?
What's going on here?
Some-thing ex-ploded?!
Its its the ca.?!

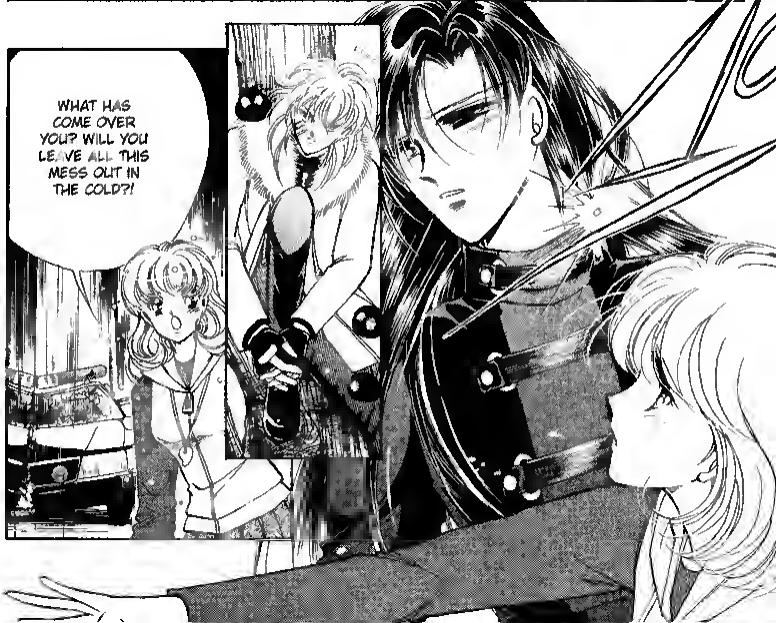
DID YOU DO THIS?!
Clear the way!
HEY, YOU!

NO, HITSUGI
WAAH!
Hitsugi!

OH—
THE PARTY HAS STARTED—
WITH SUCH POWER, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE DESTROYS HIS OWN BODY.
IF THINGS ARE THAT WAY—
MMH— HE'S OF THE VIOLENT KIND, THAT HE IS..

LET'S GO...



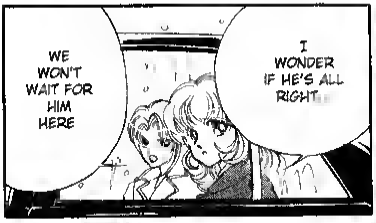

WHAT HAS COME OVER YOU? WILL YOU LEAVE ALL THIS MESS OUT IN THE COLD?!

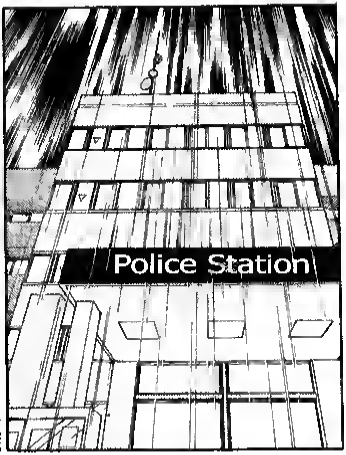
THIS GIRL ...
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER NOW! YOU HAVE BEEN DOING STRANGE THINGS FOR A WHILE.
THAT'S UNLIKE YOU!
SHE'S THE 100TH HIMIKO EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT?
KILL HER!
HITSUGI ...
UNFURL THE POWER WITHIN YOU ...

AND YOU SHALL TAKE THE LIFE OF THE ONE YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT WITH YOUR OWN HANDS.
FOLLOW US TO THE POLICE STATION!
NO.
KILL HER!
HITSUGI!
KILL HER!

OUT OF THE QUESTION. I WON'T LEAVE YOUR SIDE.
PLEASE FOLLOW THEIR ORDER.
I'LL JOIN UP WITH YOU SOON.
MIRAI AND HIYOSHI WILL ALSO STAY. IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
HIMIKO-SAMA IF ANY-THING HAPPENS, CALL ME—!
OKAY.
Mh? He is doing what she wishes that easily?

Why?
Why won't he unfurl all his power?
That's his very nature though...
Is she Himiko-sama?
He called her "Himiko-sama"...
Is this what his feelings really are?
He..


I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT...
WE WON'T WAIT FOR HIM HERE


Police Station

BUT IF WE SEPARATE HIM FROM KOSUMO, HE'LL HAVE FREE REIN TO HIS VIOLENT SIDE...
MMH...

Oh, inugamis!

Mmh, Hitsugi was very strange.. and if it was because of that?
KOSUMO! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
There's a priestess who calls upon mugamis and snakes!
This is what Kitsune said.
WHERE ARE YOU SNAKE CHARMER?!
I KNOW YOU ARE NOT FAR AWAY!
SHOW YOURSELF !

INUGAMI, YOU HEAR MY CALL, DON'T YOU?
キュ
TELL ME WHERE SHE IS...
ピッ
UP THERE ?!
MMH? SHE DOESN'T LOOK THAT USELESS...
SHE IS ABLE TO SEE THE INU-GAMIS?
It's you ?!

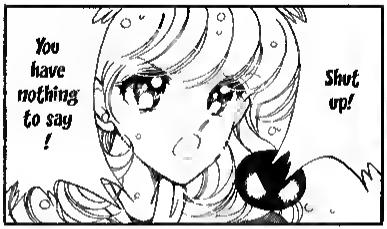
AN INU-GAMI?
AND YOU ARE TAKING HIM ON A WALK OR WHAT?
THAT'S ENOUGH. COME BACK HERE, YOU
angry
NO
NO
MY NAME IS TENRO KAGEMASA AND I'M THE PRIEST OF THE MAGAMI TEMPLE.
THIS INU-GAMI IS MY FRIEND!
THE ORDER YOU GAVE HIM ABOUT KILLING HAD NO EFFECT ON HIM.

ME? KILLING ?
WASN'T IT YOU WHO MURDERED ALL THOSE POOR PEOPLE IN THE HOSPITAL?
OR THOSE ARGUING IN THE LANDMARK TOWER?!
BUT YET YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS MANIPULATING THE INUGAMIS!
I'M SORRY
THE INUGAMIS ONLY ENHANCE THE SHADOW SIDE FOUND IN EACH HUMAN BEING
MAY THEY HIT EACH OTHER, STEAL FROM EACH OTHER, RAPE EACH OTHER
HURT OTHERS, COMMIT SUICIDE OR KILL
THEY BECOME ESTABLISHED IN THEIR EMOTIONS AND LIBERATE THEM FROM THOSE FEELINGS

MH? TENRO ?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET'S GO BACK
KOSUMO, YOU ARE SOAKED!
HIYOSHI? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
tears
tears
HIYOSHI!
NO!
AH!

Himiko-sama
It is my fault! It's my fault she died
She suffered so much
Oh!
The inu-gamis have hidden themselves in the sadness they feel because of Himiko's death.
No!

GRAB
Humans are desperately fighting to keep the balance in their heart!
FLOODING DESPAIR DRIVES THEM TO SEEK DEATH YOU SHOULD LET THEM DO AS THEY PLEASE
And you break this balance by a unilateral decision, thus disgracing their emotions!
THEY WON'T SUFFER ANYMORE THAT WAY


You have nothing to say!
Shut up!

YOU BITCH! YOU HIT ME...!

Tootsukami
Emtamae!
May the gods of heaven descend upon me and make this darkness disappear!

YOU ARE INVOKING THE HEAVENLY GODS?!
AAH...
MMH...
YOU ARE POWERFUL...
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S WHAT HIMIKO EXPECTS YOU TO DO?
THE GIRL WHO RETURNED FROM THE LAND OF THE DEAD DECEIVED YOU!

THERE IS ONLY ONE HIMIKO-SAMA IN THIS WORLD!
AND SHE IS DEAD...

You are only a fake!

YOU ARE GIFTED!
BUT I DON'T LIKE YOU.
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR PRESENTING YOURSELF AS A HIGH PRIEST-ESS!

Ah!
A flute ?!
And such a great sadness..

Behind him a shadow is becoming apparent...?
What's this?
!
HITSUGI...
HITSUGI!

MAY I INTRODUCE MAGAMI-SAMA...

So much bigger!
He's formidable! Much bigger than the last one!
Tootsukami
Kyaaah!
E

Hitsugi!

HITSUGI!
YOU CAME !
STAY HERE!
IF YOU SAY SO!
HE'S ONLY "BIG"
NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF

SHA
SHA
OH..!
He is so emotion-less...
Hitsugi...

He is smiling... ?
HITSUGI. THE POLICE ARE COMING
STOP IT. I BEG YOU
YOU TOO, MAGAMI! YOU ARE INJURED!
WITH-DRAW!
KHH...

WE HAVE TO GO!
HITSUGI! DON'T GO!
IF YOU LAY A HAND ON HER ONE MORE TIME, I'LL KILL YOU!
YOU AND YOUR KAMI!
DON'T FORGET!
PFF...
THAT GUY IS ANNOYING...
YOU WENT TOO FAR...
TENRO...

INUGAMIS ARE NOT TO BE AWAKEN ON A WHIM...
Hitsugi ...
...are you this destroyer ?

Kono Kamo Shirenai

Volume 05 Chapter 01

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KAGEMASA. T

SO HERE'S THE 5TH VOLUME. ONE YEAR HAS ALREADY PASSED AND SPRING HAS COME AGAIN. THIS TIME I CHOSE LILACS FOR THE COVER. THESE FLOWERS WERE ALSO IN THE VOLUME WHERE HISHO APPEARS FOR THE FIRST TIME. BECAUSE OF THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CHARACTERS, PROFILES WILL BE IN THE BEGINNING OF THE VOLUME. IF YOU HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS, WRITE TO ME... ABOUT THE "PET" QUESTION, I USE A SMALL HAMSTER NAMED HANCHO (DON'T LOOK IT UP. IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR MEANING...). HE WIGGLES ALL THE TIME AND HE'S REALLY TOO CUTE. YESTERDAY, HE ATE A SOCCER BALL... IF YOU ALSO WANT TO USE A "PET", WRITE TO ME YOUR ADDRESS AND MAYBE HANCHO WILL PAY YOU A LITTLE VISIT. I'D REALLY LIKE HIM TO MAKE FRIENDS.

SFX "FUAN FUAN"
PANT
PANT
YES...
HITSUGI, IS THAT THE WALL THAT YOU BROKE?
IF IT FINDS ITSELF, THE INSIDES ARE ALSO JUMBLED...
YES... THERE IS A CHANCE.
WELL, AS LONG AS THERE'S NO DEATH...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT
DOK
DOK!
HITSUGI! YOU'RE STARTING TO SCARE ME...

SFX "KATSU"
GOD OF THE SKY COME DOWN TO ME!
IT NEEDS TO BE EXORCISED QUICKLY BECAUSE HE'S GETTING MORE AND MORE FRIGHTENED...
AN INUGAMI BECAME INFECTED...
AND MAKE THIS DARKNESS DISAPPEAR!
NO INUGAMI CAME OUT FROM HIM
WELL...?
SFX PONTSU
SFX SILENCE

SFX "FUAN FUAN"
NO, BUT UH...
YOU WANT TO CLEAR AWAY THIS CAR WITH A GOD'S HELP?
AAH!
WAIT!
YOU WON'T BREAK IT THE SAME WAY A SECOND TIME?!
LEAVE IT TO ME TO DEAL WITH!
SFX "FUAN FUAN"
UH OH, SHE'S COMING HERE
SFX PASS
WHAT TO DO?

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WAS IT I WHO CALLED HIM?
OR SOME ONE ELSE ?
HIMIKO-SAMA!
WAS HYOSETSUSHIN...

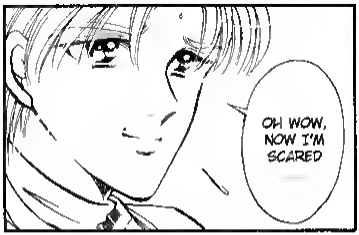
COME HERE QUICKLY!
WHO IS THAT?
HITSUGI! CLIMB UP TOO!
A... A HELI-COPTER?
WHO ...?
WHO IS THIS?
SFX "BARA BARA"

smile
HISHO ...?
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO DO, HISHO?
YOU'RE NOT PROTECTING YOUR PRIESTESS?
WHAT?!
YOUR... YOUR HIGH PRIESTESS??
MY HIGH PRIESTESS WAS KILLED ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO.
IT'S TRUE, PARDON ME.
MY NAME IS HISHO, AND I WAS THE PROTECTOR OF THE 97TH HIGH PRIESTESS HIMIKO.

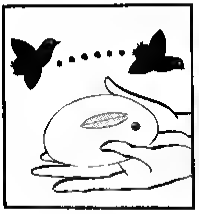
THE 98TH HIMIKO HAS JUST DIED. SO SADLY YOU ARE THE ONLY BEARER OF THE TITLE.
AFTER THE DEATH OF THE 99TH HIMIKO. THE 97TH DIED AS WELL.

AND THEN?
THE ONLY...
THERE'S ONLY YOU, KOSUMO...
YOU SAID: "WHY, NOW I'LL PROTECT HER"?
SINCE THE 99TH HIMIKO DIED IN NEW YORK, THE SITUATION HAS ONLY GOTTEN WORSE.

SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO ASK ME TO PROTECT HER.
RELAX, I'M NOT TAKING YOUR PLACE.


OH WOW, NOW I'M SCARED

TENRO HAS GONE TOO FAR..
HUH?
WITH HITSUGI.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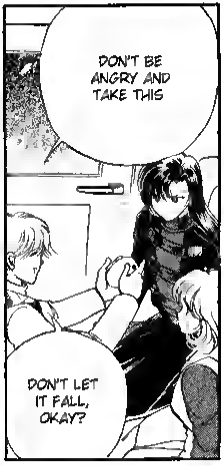
WHAT IS THIS THING?!
PAY ATTENTION


DON'T BE ANGRY AND TAKE THIS
DON'T LET IT FALL, OKAY?

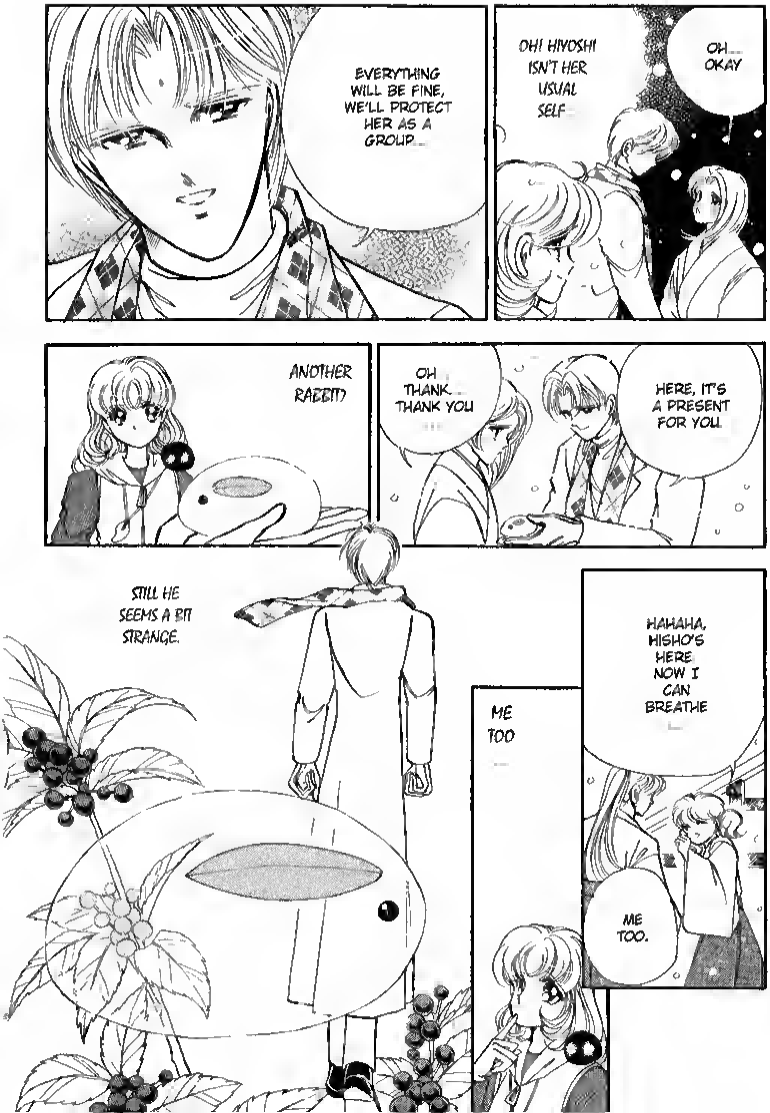
I WAS SURE OF IT! IT'S AN INUGAMI?
HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT?
YOU SPEAK WELL —
I TRIED TO EXORCISE IT RIGHT AWAY BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
OR... THE DEMOLISHER COULD POSSIBLY HAVE ABSORBED HIM
THE DEMOLISHER... A DEVASTATING GOD WHO STIRS UP STORMS THAT TEAR AWAY EVERYTHING IN YOUR PATH...
WHAT ?!
HUH?
OH, NOTHING —
BUT... THAT'S NOT GOOD. IT'S GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT IT'S GOING WELL...
AND THE 9TH HIMIKO LEAD ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS HITSUGI

THE STORMS WILL DESTROY THE COUNTRY WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WAKE UP HITSUGI.
IF IT GOES TO TOKOYO NO KAMI....

SFX "BARA BARA"

HIYOSHI, I TOLD YOU THAT I WOULD COME HERE AS THE PROTECTOR OF THE 100TH HIMIKO
BUT HER MAIN PROTECTOR IS STILL HITSUGI.

KOSUMO-SAMA! PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR HAVING RETURNED BEFORE YOU.
HISHO, THANKS FOR ACCOMPANYING HER..


EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE, WE'LL PROTECT HER AS A GROUP...
OH! HIYOSHI ISN'T HER USUAL SELF...
OH... OKAY
ANOTHER RABBIT?
OH... THANK... THANK YOU
HERE, IT'S A PRESENT FOR YOU.
STILL HE SEEMS A BIT STRANGE.
ME TOO...
HAHAHA, HISHO'S HERE NOW I CAN BREATHE
ME TOO.

SSSSH...
A HELICOPTER
THEY CAME BY HELICOPTER...
UH... IT'S THE POLICE ...
HUH? ANOTHER HELICOPTER?
YOU KNOW VERY WELL WHERE YOU ARE AND THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENTER HERE BY FORCE!
HIMIKO-SAMA BEING DECEASED, THAT RIGHT IS NO LONGER VALID...
THE POLICE?!

THE RUMORS GOING AROUND ABOUT THE 100TH HIMIKO . . . SHE HAS THE POWER TO DO WHAT IS EXPECTED OF HER?
HIMIKO-SAMA IS HERE! PLEASE SHOW SOME RESPECT!
CALM DOWN, HITSUGI
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY?!
HIYOSHI
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
SO JUST STAY HERE AND BE QUIET.
YOU DIDN'T COME TO TALK TO US ABOUT THE POLICE CAR THAT WAS DAMAGED?
ピヨ…

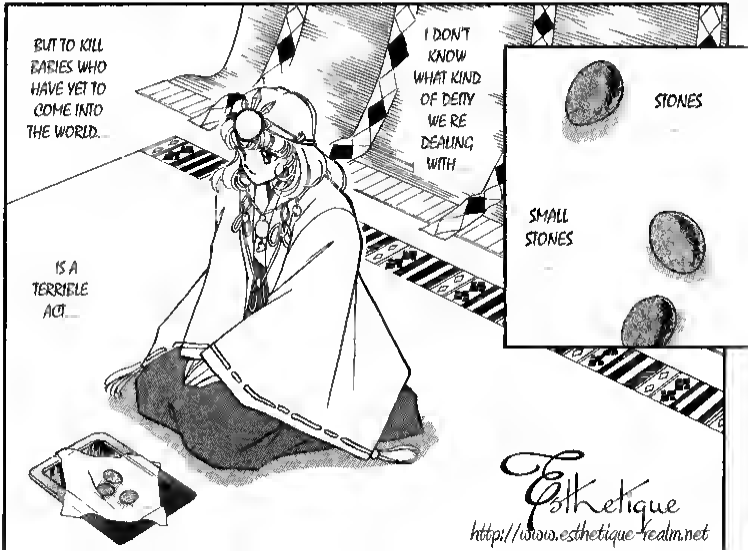
THE HIGHEST FUNCTION OF THE PRIESTESS IS
HERE'S WHAT THE WORK OF THE GRAND PRIESTESS HIMIKO INCLUDES TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE WHO COME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO HEAR DECISIONS THAT WILL AFFECT POLITICS OR ABOUT THE CURSES THAT NO ONE CAN EXORCISE
MY NAME IS SHUSUKE FUJIWARA AND I AM THE PREFECT OF POLICE
AH, I'M SORRY ABOUT THE CAR.
DON'T TALK SUPER-FLUOUSLY
THAT'S WHAT THE PRIESTESS DOES AS THE CROWN OF JAPAN'S HIERARCHY

HIMIKO-SAMA, I CAME TO ASK YOU SOME THINGS BECAUSE YOU ARE AT KYO NO MIYA...
THIS TIME IN KYOTO AND ITS VICINITIES A NUMBER OF PREGNANT WOMEN HAD MISCARRIAGES.
I ASKED MYSELF IF THIS COULD BE BECAUSE OF A CURSE...
BUT...
I ASKED MYSELF THE SAME QUESTION
COULD THIS BE RELATED TO THE TOXIN PROBLEM?
BEFORE THE MISCARRIAGES, STONES LIKE THESE OFTEN FELL FROM THE SKY.
STONES?!
SOME STONES THAT FELL FROM THE SKY??

A BLACK BUTTERFLY?!
OH, A PATTERN...
TOKOYO NO KAMI WANTS TO BRING A WORLD OF DARKNESS TO ALL THAT COME TO US
IT DISAP-PEARED!
COULD THIS CONCERN THE BABIES BEFORE THEIR BIRTH??
HIMIKO-SAMA? WHAT HAPPENED?

WAIT FOR ME.
I WILL RID YOU OF THIS CURSE
ALRIGHT
YES!
I SAW THE PATTERN OF A BUTTERFLY ON THIS STONE.
TOKOYO NO KAMI?!
IT'S TOKOYO NO KAMI...
CLEARLY, YOU THINK IT'S A TATARIGAMI, IN SHORT, A "CURSED GOD", ACTING THROUGH TOKOYO NO KAMI?
YES
WHO IS BEHIND THIS EVENT?

I'VE ALREADY HEARD THE TALK OF THE SERVANTS AND GODS WHO HAVE FOLLOWED TOKOYO NO KAMI
IN ORDER TO STOP THEM ONE BY ONE WE MUST START THEN WITH THIS ONE


BUT TO KILL BABIES WHO HAVE YET TO COME INTO THE WORLD...
IS A TERRIBLE ACT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF DEITY WE'RE DEALING WITH...
STONES
SMALL STONES

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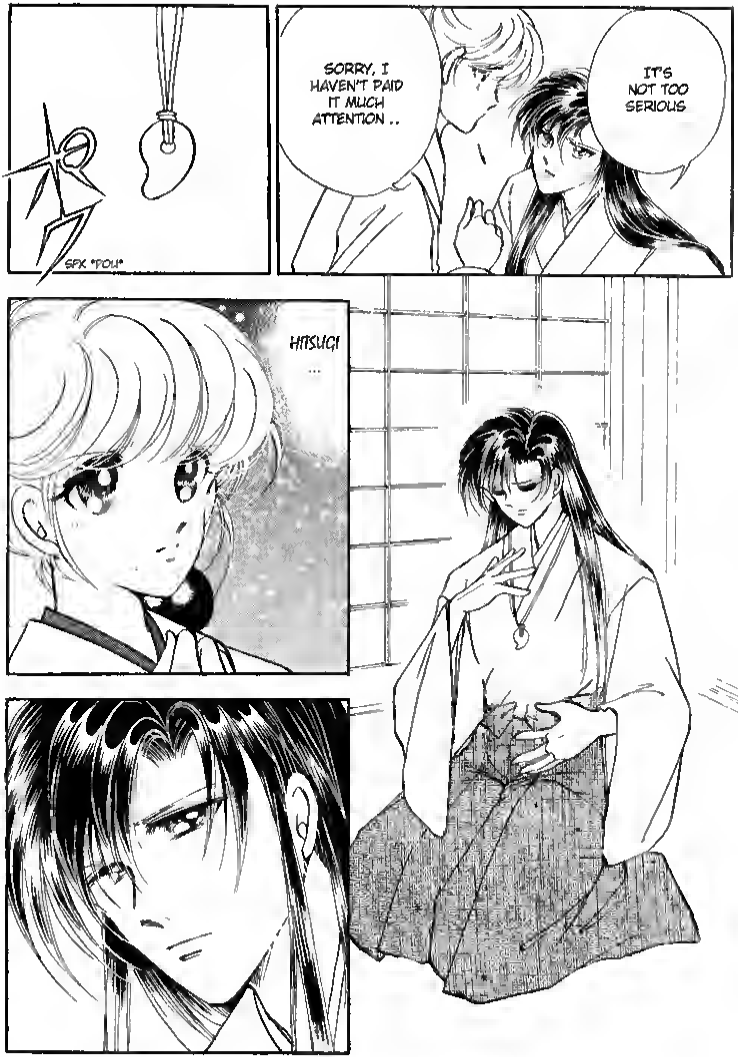
FOR A MOMENT, PLEASE REST A BIT HIMIKO-SAMA
THANKS
SOME REALLY AWFUL THINGS HAVE HAP PENED
REALLY DANGEROUS THINGS
HITSUGI WAS HURT
OH!
HITSUGI!
I'M HERE
HOW'S YOUR WOUND? USE THE IKUTAMA ON IT
IT'LL HEAL RIGHT AWAY


SFX "FOU"
SORRY, I HAVEN'T PAID IT MUCH ATTENTION ..
IT'S NOT TOO SERIOUS
HITSUJI
...

I
WHAT'S UP?
DON'T CHANGE, HITSUGI!
ALWAYS STAY KIND LIKE YOU ARE NOW.

AH!
SFX GRAB
HITSUGI
!?

HI……
TSUGI……
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT HE HAS KISSED ME LIKE THIS !
THIS..

OH...
EXCUSE ME?
SFX *SU—*
UH...
SHE'S TIRED
LET'S LEAVE HER HERE
UH... I..
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, HITSUGI, BUT YOU'RE SLEEPING IN THE SAME ROOM AS ME.
SFX PUSH
FULL APOLOGIES.
!!

HIS THOUGHTS ARE QUICKER THAN USUAL...
IS IT BECAUSE OF THE BURDEN ON HIM?
DON'T WORRY. I'VE SETUP A MAGICAL BARRIER THAT CALMS DEMONS...
A MAGICAL BARRIER...
HIS KISS WAS...
YOU SLEEP OVER THERE
AND IF THAT BOTHERS YOU, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH YOUR DUVET.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THEY'RE CUTE, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE THESE FOUR RABBITS?
I'M SLEEPING!
A MAGICAL BARRIER, YES...
BUT UNTIL WHEN WILL IT HELP HER?

HE SAID THAT IT WAS ON THE CORNER, BUT THIS IS A VERY BIG "CORNER"...
FROM WHERE CAN WE START?
OKAY.
TELL ME, YOU'VE GONE MANY TIMES TO A HOTEL WITH KENICHI, YOU COULDN'T BE PREGNANT BY CHANCE?
N... NO...
YOU GUYS WEREN'T PROTECTED?
NO, I'M FEELING BAD.
RIHO, EVERYTHING OKAY?

I HAVE TO GET AN ABORTION...
MORNING SICKNESS...?
EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M GOING TO GO HOME AND REST A BIT...
OKAY, YOU'RE SURE THAT YOU'RE OKAY ALONE?
HMM
SFX "BARA BARA"
SFX CLONK
KYAAAH! WHAT IS THIS?

AAH..
OH!
STONES!
ARE YOU OKAY? MISS!
THE SAME ONES FROM YESTERDAY!
SFX BABY CRYING
SFX UWAA UWAA

SFX "ZU ZU--"
SFX "PARA PARA"
パラ
パラ
パラ
KYAAA AH!!
OH...
OH NO!

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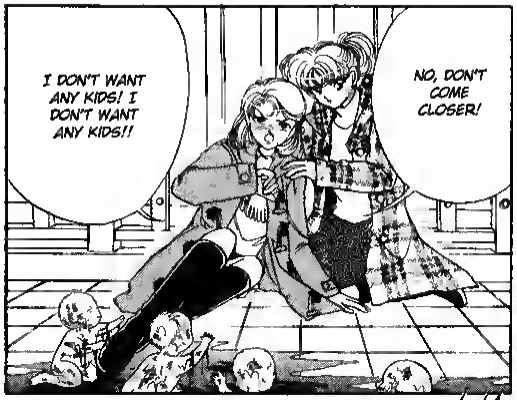
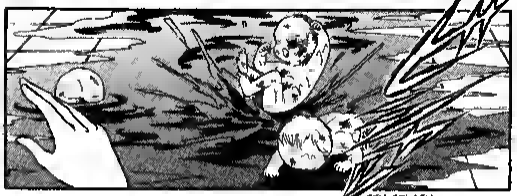
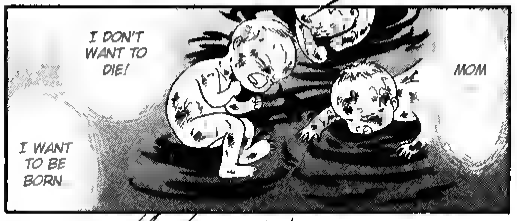
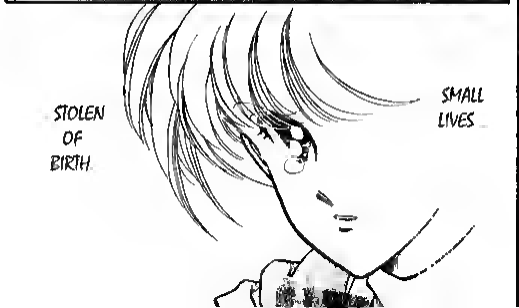
A ROCK OF CONCEPTION?!
THEY ARE
STONES THAT BECAME SACRED RECEPTACLES OF A KAMI WHO PRESIDED OVER BIRTH
A "ROCK OF CONCEPTION"? WHAT'S THAT?
IN FACT, PEOPLE WHO WANT KIDS GATHER TOGETHER MANY SMALL STONES TO MAKE A HUGE ONE, HOPING THAT THE KAMI WILL DESCEND AND A CHILD WILL APPEAR...
BUT THIS ROCK HERE...
IT'S A TRANSFORMED TATARIGAMI...


I DON'T WANT ANY KIDS! I DON'T WANT ANY KIDS!!
NO, DON'T COME CLOSER!



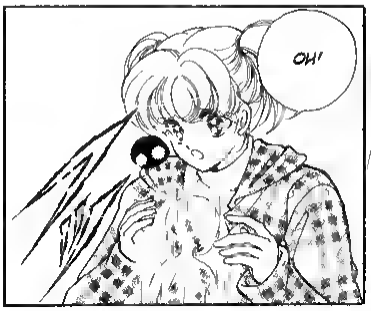
SFX SPLASH


I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
MOM
I WANT TO BE BORN


STOLEN OF BIRTH
SMALL LIVES

AND INSTEAD OF BESTOWING CHILDREN, IT TAKES THEM AWAY.

HIMIKO-SAMA, DON'T!! THAT'S DANGEROUS!
POOR LITTLE ONE WHO WANTS TO LIVE BUT CAN'T BE BORN...
IT COULD BE CURSED!
DISAPPEAR!
SFX SLASH


OH!

SFX-"PLITSH"

DAMN! IT WITHDREW!

CALL AN AMBULANCE! QUICKLY!
YES!

OH..IT HURTS..MY STOMACH

MMH
HOW ARE YOU?
NO, BUT THE DOCTOR SAID THAT YOU NEED A LOT OF REST
MY BABY DIED?
京都四条病院
AH...
I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE DO SOMETHING! WE'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG...!
CALM YOURSELF, YUMI!
I WANT TO KEEP IT! PLEASE, LET ME KEEP IT!

WE'RE ONLY 17...
IF KENICHI FINDS OUT, HE'LL RUN FOR HIS LIFE.
I DON'T WANT AN ABORTION
BUT I DON'T WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW.
MH
YOU SHOULD CALL HOME
POOR FOLKS. I HAVE ONE WITHOUT HAVING WANTED IT...
HERE...?!
THE STONES FELL HERE YESTERDAY ALSO...
HIMIKO-SAMA, ALL THE NEW PATIENTS CONCERN MISCARRIAGES OR ABORTIONS...
I want to be born...
I don't want to die!
Mom ...

WHERE IS IT?
WHERE IS THE ROCK?
WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?
WHY?
PLEASE, LET THE BABY BE BORN!
PLEASE, LET HIM BE BORN!

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TATARIGAMI?
SFX RUSTLE
SFX FLOATING
SFX FLOP

Kuma Kamo Shirenai

Volume 05 Chapter 05

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APPENDIX

The Tatarigami

The tatarigami is literally, a deity (kami) infected with a curse (tatari) Any kami can become a tatarigami if a powerful enough ounce of anger or pain is inflicted upon him We could describe it as a demon shooting out of a person housing pure and sudden hate

Its potrayal

We actually have very little knowledge of this phenomenon and even less about its portrayal One of the most famous depictions known by the French to these days is what Miyazaki used in the Mononoke hime universe Nago, the large boar from the beginning of the story, is beside himself with sorrow and wrath due to a bullet wound He cumulated so much pain and hate that became evil This curse is coming true theough black worms who are swarming his body Those transform into long tentacles allowing him to take the appearance of a giant spider, to move along and catch everything around him That is a rather classic tatarigami image and it can also be found in this Towa Kamo Shiranai volume maybe

Get rid of it

Mononoke Hime's hero, Ashitaka, has been contaminated through simple physical contact with the boar and from that day on he will do anything to suppress this boiling hate which threatens to overwhelm him and drive him insane

It's not a sinecure to get rid of this kind of curse At the beginning of the movie, the villagers are trying to purify Ashitaka from the tatarigami's soiling by pouring sacred water down his arm But the rite fails because the young boy is guilty he shot an arrow towards a kami even cursed, a kami remains a kami- and killed him He can't be purified anymore However when San, the heroine, is contaminated by accident, Ashitaka takes her to the sacred waters of the deer god This step helps her recover thus saving her life San was innocent of any crime and her contamination a mistake So the deer god showed leniency towards her

Miyazaki is using the purification rites often found in shintoism To get rid of a tatarigami, there is only one solution purification

Most times you need a rite based on water and sacred formulas. In this manga, Kosumo tries to appease the tatarigami with understanding and reassuring words, then with an exorcism formula but its anger and pain are far too great. Its role has been reversed: people are asking it to kill babies, instead of breathing life into them. It has accumulated so much evil energy that it changed from a beneficent to a maleficent being. The only way to discard it is to destroy it: a job done by Hitsugi.

The rocks of conception

The rocks of conception are placed inhabited by a kami of birth. There are only few of them in Japan but they really do exist. They can mainly be found in shintô temples of the Kyôto and Osaka area. Actually, their function seems to vary depending on the temples honouring them. Some people come to pray for an easy childbirth, other people for conception or for a miscarriage.

Sometimes it's the ritual way the rock is touched that tells the kami their wishes. Still a rather vivacious belief in certain regions.

VOCABULARY

Hyôsetsushin: Snow and ice god.

Kanasawa: Town located in the northern part of Central Honshû, Sea of Japan side.

Miko: Priestess.

Ohanami: Have a picnic and partying with friends under cherry trees.

Senpai: The elders, seniors, those who had been students before the recent generation.

Tokoyo: There are many names for the realm of the dead. The more famous ones are 'the Land of Tokoyo' and "Yomi country". Some of the legends say that the kingdom of Tokoyo is a place beyond the seas, and Tokoyo no kami would then be the name of a god from that kingdom, who came to bring longevity and happiness to humans.

ポカ…
YES.
LET'S GO
WE KNOW HIS
HIDEOUT NOW
THE LIGHT OF
THE SUN IS MAKING
THE MAP GLITTER
MH, HIMIKO-SAMA
IS REALLY THE SUN
PRIESTESS!

NO. THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS HASN'T STOPPED INCREASING...
LOOK, OVER THERE!
YOUR POWER HAS WEAKENED!
HIMIKO-SAMA, WE'D BETTER TAKE CARE OF IT. THE SUN HAS ALREADY SET ...
OVER THERE?
YES. THE ROCK IS BEHIND ...
... THIS PHENOMENON.

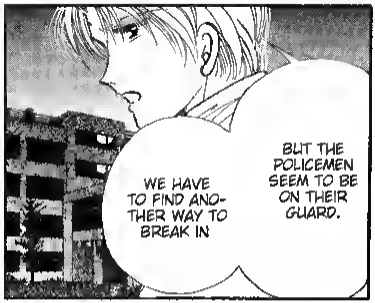
THE ROCK IS IN THERE?
YES.
BUT THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL!
** KYOTO NISHI HIGH SCHOOL
I HAVE A VERY UN-PLEASANT FEELING
A HIGH SCHOOL IS A PLACE WHERE THOUGHTS ARE SEETHING
THAT'S TRUE
IT'S A DELICATE MATTER
...
...
TO FALL PREGNANT AT THAT AGE.

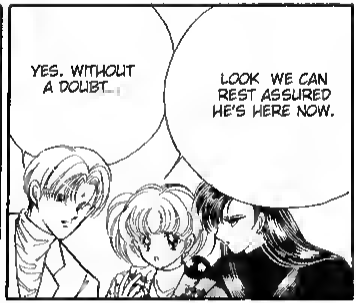
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO IF WE WERE TO FIND THIS ROCK?
SHALL WE TRY GOING IN?
WE ARE HERE ...
ANNIHILATE IT, OF COURSE!
LOOKING FOR A ROCK OF CONCEPTION WHICH TRANSFORMED INTO A TATARIGAMI AND CAUSES ABORTIONS OF THE WOMEN FROM THIS AREA
N...NO, HITSUGI! NOT SO FAST ...
THIS ROCK IS "CONTAMINATED" BY "TOKYO NO KAMI"!

IF WE EXORCISE IT, IT WILL SURELY BECOME A POSSITIVE ROCK AGAIN...
I WONDER IF IT'S THAT EASY...
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, HITSUGI!
DO AS YOU CHOOSE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WE ARE GOING TO ACT ACCORDING TO THE HIGH PRIEST-ESS' WORDING

SORRY, BUT...
I'M NOT GOING TO LOOSE HIMIKO- SAMA ONCE AGAIN!
ONLY TO FOLLOW HER ORDERS
COME!
WHO GOES THERE?
Hutsugi...
Hutsugi...
KOSUMO, TO PROTECT YOU IS MY TOP PRIORITY...
WAIT!

THIS IS A STONE FROM THE ROCK OF CONCEPTION!
HE RAN AWAY!
DO YOU THINK IT WAS A THIEF?


WE HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO BREAK IN
BUT THE POLICEMEN SEEM TO BE ON THEIR GUARD.


YES. WITHOUT A DOUBT...
LOOK WE CAN REST ASSURED HE'S HERE NOW.

THE KAKURE NO MIYA HAS THE POWER TO LET ME ENTER THIS PLACE THAT VERY DAY? WOOW!!
AND I WILL BE A TEACHER
YOU AND HITSUGI WON'T BE IN THE SAME CLASS ..

WHAT?
IS THIS YOUR OTHER "METHOD" TO ENTER? ENROLLING IN THIS HIGH SCHOOL?
IT DOESN'T SUIT HER.
YES.

OK SEE YOU LATER, HITSUGI.
DO YOU KNOW NOT BAD, TOO
CALL ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
WHERE ARE YOU?
WANT US TO SHOW YOU AROUND SCHOOL, KOSUMO?
THANK YOU THAT'S NICE OF YOU
OVER THERE ARE THE OLD PREMISES, AND OVER THERE IS THE SWIMMING POOL.
TATARIGAMI
...

OVER THERE YOU HAVE THE GARDEN
WAAAAAA
WAAA
BABY CRIES ...?
YE. YES.
MH? IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
WHAT?
WOULDN'T YOU HAPPEN TO FEEL A WEIRD PRESENCE?
IT COMES FROM THOSE OLD PREMISES?

PEOPLE SAY IT'S TATARIGAMI BECAUSE IN THE PAST, A PREGNANT STUDENT SUPPOSEDLY UNDERWENT AN ABORTION AT THAT PLACE
APPARENTLY, WHEN YOU ARE INSIDE IN THE EVENING, BABY CRIES CAN BE HEARD COMING OUT OF NOWHERE
A STRANGE STORY ABOUT THESE PREMISES IS GOING AROUND
MH. YES.
BAH. IT'S ONLY A RUMOUR... LET'S GO. CLASS IS ABOUT TO START.
NO MISTKAE, HE'S HERE...
AND HIDING IN THOSE OLD PREMISES
MURASE!
IT'S NOT A MERE RUMOUR!
IT'S... IT'S HIM?

YOU LOST THIS STONE YESTERDAY EVENING
MM? YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
YESTERDAY EVENING, IT WAS YOU WHO...
NO. I DON'T KNOW HER
HOW DID YOU GET THIS?!
AAH!

WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, MURASE?!
MH?!
WHAT...?
WAAAH!

HITSUGI?!
HE HAS MORE POWER THAN USUAL!
HE ISN'T HIMSELF ANYMORE
OOH...
DID HE DO THAT?!

KOSUMO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEY, YOU!
HISHO!
COME ON.
EVERYONE! GO BACK TO CLASS!
IT'S THE GUY WHO LOST THE STONE YESTERDAY EVENING...
THE ROOFING
HITSUGI?!
HITSUGI DID THIS
HE HAS BEEN PROTECTING ME FROM THAT CORRIDOR OVER THERE.

THE DESTROYER
WHAT?
FOLLOW ME!
IT APPEARS THAT THE ROCK OF CONCEPTION IS LOCATED IN THOSE OLD PREMISES. LET'S CHECK IT OUT?
IN THERE?
IT'S NOTHING
?
I FOUND IT, YOU KNOW..

WHAT'S THIS NOISE?
MMH
**WAAAAA WAAAAAAA
アアアア

**MANUAL LABOR ROOM
技術工作室
MURASE?!
THE STONE! HE'S GOING TO DIE!

SHUT UP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOP IT!
DO YOU WANT TO KILL THIS BABY?!
ARE YOU KENICHI?
RIHO...? ARE ...ARE YOU HER BABY'S FATHER?
I DON'T WANT THAT BABY!
RIHO AND I ARE ONLY 17!
WHEN SHE FELL, I THOUGHT SHE HAD A MISCARRIAGE BUT THE BABY HUNG IN THERE
DO YOU KNOW RIHO?

IT HAS TO LEAVE!
IF I SUCCEED IN BREAKING THIS STONE, I'M SURE SHE'D ABORT.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE DOES!
EVERY-ONE?
OUR SENPAIS THE GIRL IN OUR CLASS EVERYONE DOES IT!
PLENTY OF PEOPLE CAME IN ORDER TO ASK THE ROCK OF CONCEPTION
TO GET RID OF THEIR CHILDREN! THIS IS HOW THESE STONES GAINED THEIR POWER
I HAVE NO CHOICE!

STOP IT!
HIMIKO-SAMA!
KH...
HITSUGI
KOSUMO!
整理
整とん

DIRTY RAT!
I'M FINE! IT'S JUST A BIT OF BLOOD!
LOOK!
HITSUGI!

AND YOU?! YOU WERE PRESENT AND DIDN'T DO A THING!?!
ERR...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, HIMIKO-SAMA.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WANTED TO PROTECT THIS STONE.
THE STONE?
YOU SHED YOUR BLOOD TO PROTECT THIS STONE?
Y.. YES. BECAUSE
神威 Page 141

YOU ARE KIDDING, RIGHT..?
BECAUSE THIS STONE REPRESENTS THE LIFE OF A BABY. IF IT'S BROKEN, THE BABY WILL DIE...
AND HITSUGI
THIS 100TH HIMIKO IS INCREDIBLE?
WHAT?
YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO ME?

IT'S...
OH, IT'S THE ROCK OF CONCEPTION ..! IN THE OLD DAYS...
THANK YOU. GREAT THANKS
FOR HAVING GIVEN ME SUCH A GENTLE CHILD
WORK?
OH! IT WAS BURRIED!

WHAT SHALL I DO?
I DON'T WANT THAT BABY!
嗚呼
嗚呼
嗚呼
HELP!
I'M AFRAID!
OH...
CAME HERE TO PRAY FOR THEIR MISCARRIAGE...
THE ROCK ONLY ANSWERED THEIR PRAYERS...
SOMEBODY GAVE BIRTH AND KILLED HER OWN CHILD JUST ABOVE THE ROCK OF CONCEPTION...
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. EVEN TODAY DOZENS OF PREGNANT STUDENTS...
OH NO...
WHAT MONSTROSITY...
KOSUMO...

MY BA-BIES!
THE ROCK IS ANGRY!
GIVE ME BACK MY BABIES!
YOU ARE KILLING THEM! YOU WON'T GET THEM ANY-MORE!
IT'S ENRAGED ...
THAT WAY!
GYM ROOM
新体操部
THERE!
I WON'T HAND THEM OUT...
...TO HUMANS ANYMORE!
EVERYONE'S WISHES WENT INTO THESE STONES.
AND THE "STONES OF CONCEPTION" TRANSFORMED INTO "STONES OF ABORTION"
THE RUMOUR SPREAD AND THE ROCK'S POWER INCREASED AS PRAYERS PROGRESSED.

THERE! UNDER THE FLOORING!

YOU ARE KILLING MY BABIES!
GIVE THEM BACK SINCE YOU ARE KILLING THEM!
GIVE THEM BACK!
DON'T COME NEAR IT, KOSUMO! IT'S MAD!
AH...

TO EXORCISE TOKYO NO KAMI IS HER WISH!
NO, HITSUGI! IT'S HIMIKO-SAMA! TRUST HER!
.....
AND A LOT OF THEM ARE SUFFERING FROM THEIR BABY'S DEATH...
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WANT A CHILD...
SORRY! SORRY...
YOU'VE HELPED SO MANY PEOPLE ...
YOU ARE BOTHERING ME!
BE QUIET!
YOU HAVE BEEN THE RECEIVER OF THE HUMAN'S WISHES FOR SO LONG...

I WON'T GIVE THEM BABIES ANYMORE!
THEY ALL BELONG TO ME!
IT'S TRANS-FORMING!
OH.

KYAAH!!
MAY THE GODS OF HEAVEN DESCEND UPON ME ...
AND MAKE THIS DARK-NESS DISAPPEAR!

AAH!
IT'S NOT WORKING!
I BEG YOU!
BECOME THE ONE YOU WERE BEFORE!
AH!
THE TIME FOR PERSUASION IS OVER!

AHI

DON'T DIE!
W...WAIT...
TOOTSUKAMI EMITAMAE!
BUTTER-FLIES!
HYOSETSUSHIN, COME TO MY AID!

ボト
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ボト
ボトボト
THE STONES...
HITSUGI
..
YES?

BECAUSE HE WAS A THREAT TO YOU.
WHY DO YOU JUST DO AS YOU PLEASE? WHY DID YOU DESTROY IT?!
...!
I SHOULD HAVE WATCHED YOU DIE WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER?
BUT IT WAS A GOOD KAMI!
IT SHOWED ME ITS MEMORIES OF BYGONE DAYS!
BUT .. IT WASN'T ..
IT WASN'T
I'M SURE THAT THERE WAS A WAY TO MAKE IT COME TO ITS SENSES.

...
HIMIKO-SAMA...
YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP THIS TIME ..
HISHO...
KENICHI MURASE, HIDDEN BEHIND THE WALL, WATCHED HER LEAVE
RIHO EVENTUALLY MISCARRIED THE MOMENT WE DESTROYED THE TATARIGAMI.
京都四条病院
**KYOTO SHIJO HOSPITAL
AND SHE LEFT THE HOSPITAL.
MH? NO, IT'S FINE.
IS YOUR WOUND HURTING?

I HEARD YOU CALL THE NAME "HYOSET-SUSHIN"
THANK YOU, HISHO. YOU'RE A PRIEST, RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO LESSEN THE PAIN A BIT. IT WILL RELAX YOU.
LIKE HEARING YOU SAYING MY NAME
YES..
SO A PRIEST OR PRIESTESS IS NOTHING SPECIAL...
EVERYBODY IN THIS COUNTRY IS LINKED TO AN UNTOLD NUMBER OF GODS
FROM THE MOMENT THEY START TO BELIEVE IN HIM
THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE ROCK OF CONCEPTION..
ARE LINKED TO THIS GOD FROM THE MOMENT THEY START TO BELIEVE IN IT.

I'D LIKE TO THANK HITSUGI FOR WHAT HE DID.
THE CURSE IS LIFTED BUT I NEVER ENVISIONED IT WOULD END THAT WAY.
HIMIKO-SAMA...
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING LIFTED THIS CURSE.
THE STONES HAVE DISAPPEARED.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYMORE.
I HAVE A FEELING THAT SOMETHING WITHIN HIM IS READY TO EXPLODE
IT'S A STRANGE SENSATION ..
ACTUALLY, I KNOW THAT IT'S A BIT SUDDEN BUT I HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM TO SUBMIT TO YOU...
YES?

THIS YEAR, AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF BUTTERFLIES APPEARED IN TOKYO IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER..
THIS BUTTERFLY ..
...WHEN I WAS UNDER SNAKE ATTACKS?!
THEY HELPED ME OUT...
BUT...THEY ARE MESSENGERS FROM THE TEGUSU TEMPLE..
AND LATELY, THE WHOLE REGION ENCOUNTERED AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ITS DISEASED PEOPLE.
WHEN NIGHT COMES, THE BUTTERFLIES GATHER IN A PRECISE ZONE ..

HE'S IN TOKYO, RIGHT?
YES. BESIDES, THERE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PRIEST AT THAT PLACE
THE TEMPLE WHO HAS ALWAYS HONOURED GLOW-WORMS. BUT SINCE THEY CAN'T FLY, THE GREAT WHITE BUTTERFLIES BECAME THE TEMPLE'S MESSENGER.
KURA-HASHI?
YOU KNOW HIM?
YES. MIZUKI KURAHASHI ...
HE'S THE PRIEST OF THE TEGUSU TEMPLE.
IS IT FROM THE TEMPLE?

MIZUKI...
KOSUMO.
NEXT TIME, I'LL PROTECT YOU.
DID YOU SEND THE BUTTERFLIES SO THEY COULD PROTECT ME FROM THE SERPENTS?
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?
MIZUKI...
WE ARE GOING BACK TO TOKYO!
26

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN TOKYO?!
SAKE!
MIZUKI ..
MIZUKI ..
WHERE ARE YOU, MIZUKI?!
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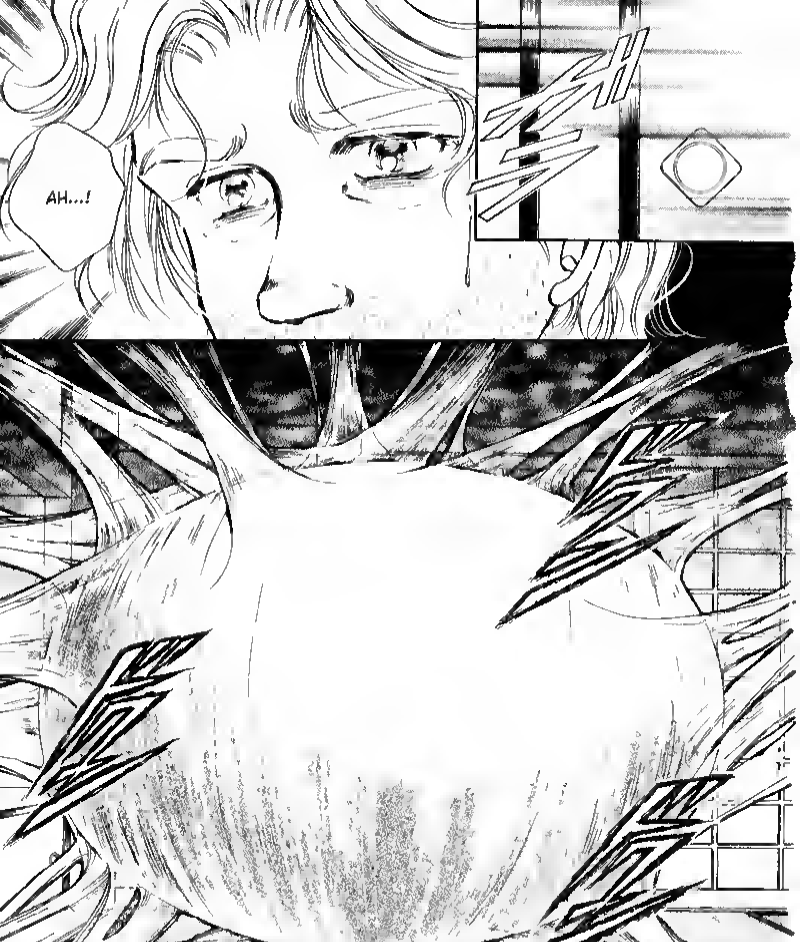
AH...!

Kuma Kuma Shirenai

Volume 05 Chapter 04

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